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MR. ALBERT
AND FRIENDS
1118

4 November 1944.

Dear Frank -

Hello!

If you were more familiar with the details of the Navy programs you might be able to infer from my official title and civilian status that I was now officially a student at Medical School. And so now, I am. Last June I graduated from Columbia College with a B.A., and I trust you will not be displeased to learn that I was awarded "Honors in Zoology" and membership in Phi Beta Kappa. The next day I was sent back to the US Navy Hospital at St. Albans, L.I. where such things don't matter, and had an interesting, if not highly academic experience for 3 months in a parasitology laboratory, doing stool examinations for hookworm or amoebiasis, and blood smears for malaria diagnosis.

But now, and for the past month, I am found to be a bawly first-year medical student, in pursuit of anatomy + histology and such which are a test on the memory but not much on the creative or critical intelligence. Medical School may be an even more ridiculous threat to one's pure-scientific integrity because for pedagogic reasons the clinical facet is not exposed until very much later. At the moment a colleague and myself are thinking through a problem concerned with what humoral (chemical?) factors, if any, maybe concerned in the unusually rapid growth of the remnant when 60-75%

of a mammalian liver is removed surgically. A not dissimilar study
on the regeneration of the adrenal cortex by Angle & Higgins & others, which may
be familiar to you, was revealing in exposing or clarifying the adrenotrophic
functions of the anterior pituitary lobe. But right now it looks as if
the profs. are telling us nosofar as letting us have the meager facilities
we need. Perhaps 1st year men are not supposed to have any interests beyond
the muscles at the ends of their noses. But we hope to get started before
too long. The first job is to find whether the stimulus is humoral. But
enough for now.

Vague recollection of your last letter reminds me that you were sup-
posed perhaps to come East. It is superfluous to say that I hope this
letter reaches you. In the event you are in or near New York I pre-
vail upon you to pay me a visit here. I have an "antique" apartment here
with a fellow med. student; if nothing else I am sure the color scheme or
the dissected skeletons will amuse — or the beer. For security reasons
I do not even dare to suggest an interest in what you have been doing.

Preciously yours,

Johns.